Hope," but although I stumped about heavily *in* large sabots, I was told by the critics that I walked like a fairy and was far too graceful for a Dutch fisherwoman ! It is a ca^e of " Give a dog a bad name and hang him "— the bad namr- in my ca*e being '* a womanly woman [n] ! What this means I scarcely apprehend, but I fancy it is intended to signify (in an actress) something sweet, pretty, soft, appealing, jjentle and *underdone.* Is it possible that I convey that impression when I try to assume the character of a washerwoman or a fisherwoman ? If so I am a very bad actress !

My last Shakespearean part was Herrnlone in '* A Winter's Tale/* By some strange coincidence it fell to me to play it exactly fifty yaars after I had played the little boy Mamilius in the same pla.y. I sometimes think that Fate is the best of stage managers 1 Herrnione is a gravely beautiful part—well-balanced, difficult to act, but certain in its appeal. If only it were possible to put on the play in a simple way and arrange the scenes to knit up the ravelled interest, I should hope to play Hermione again.

MY STAGE JUBILEE

When I had celebrated rny sta.ge jubilee in 1906, I suddenly began to feel exuberantly young again. It was very inappropriate, but I could not help it.

The recognition of my fifty years of stage life by the public and by my profession was quite unexpected. Henry Irving had said to me not long before his death in 1905 that he believed that they (the theatrical profession) " intended to celebrate our jubilee." (If he had

lived he would have completed his fifty years on the stage in the autumn of 1906.) He said that there would be a monster performance at Drary Lane, and that already the profession were discussing what form it was to take.